

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:
MARK F. SMITH
7577 CENTRAL PARK BOULEVARD
SUITE 316
MASON, OH 45040

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

Date of Mailing (day/month/year) 04 JUN 2003	
Applicant's or agent's file reference WRL-004FOR	REPLY DUE within 2 months/days from the above date of mailing
International application No. PCT/US02/21225	International filing date (day/month/year) 02 July 2002 (02.07.2002)
Priority date (day/month/year) 02 July 2001 (02.07.2001)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 17/26 and US Cl.: 705/7	
Applicant WILSON, THOMAS	

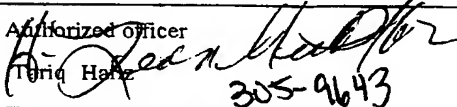
1. This written opinion is the first (first, etc.) drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - ☐ Priority
 - ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2 (a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - ☐ Certain documents cited
 - ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - ☒ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. ~~The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension. See rule 66.2(d).~~

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
 For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
 For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 02 November 2003 (02.11.2003).

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer  Thomas Harte Telephone No. (703) 308-1113
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WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/US02/21225

I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1-36, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims:
 pages 37-48, as originally filed
 pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 1-7, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages NONE, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages NONE
- ☐ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This opinion has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed."

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V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-38</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-38</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-38</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-38 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Schloss et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,692,125).

As in the claimed invention, Schloss et al. schedules tasks based on relative start times and end times in relation to other tasks (cohort time). The events are scheduled (CCT) and checked to make sure certain conditions associated with the events are met. Dynamic conditions (UOA-ID) are stored in association with the events, which are checked before performance. This checking (Adjusted Variable Values) occurs between time of scheduling and performance time in a period known as "prepare to perform times". Templates are used to schedule event groups made up of events of common type (grouping by type/Grouper). The tool is implemented using a computer system. See figures 2, 3, 9, 10A, column 2, lines 25-56, column 3, lines 20-30 and 45-65, column 4, lines 30-55, and column 5, lines 29-53.

Schloss et al. does not teach this method and system applied to the specific applications of marketing, trademarks, evaluating web pages, warranties, etc. These applications are intended use. The tool taught by Schloss et al. would be applied to varying fields, such as health care, see column 3, lines 45-65. It would have been obvious to apply the methodology and system of Schloss et al. to the other applications in order to increase the marketability of the tool to other industries, thus increasing the consumer base able to use the tool.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the questions whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12-17, 26-34, and 36-38 objected to under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(v) as lacking clarity under PCT Article 6 because the claims are indefinite for the following reason(s): The claims contain acronyms that are not explained or supported in the claims, leaving the claims unclear and indefinite. The claims should include explanation of the acronyms used, since these acronyms are not well known in the art and are instead acronyms of the Applicant.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

TIME LIMIT:

The time limit set for response to a Written Opinion may not be extended. 37 CFR 1.484(d). Any response received after the expiration of the time limit set in the Written Opinion will not be considered in preparing the International Preliminary Examination Report.